

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #944 - POSTED 09/15/95

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet users jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as

accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AK0 at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, FL.....	(407) 768-7447
Houston.....	(713) 362-4650

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie.....	m345;1
GEnie.....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
America Online.....	
Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library	
Delphi.....	
In the ham radio conference	
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

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NEWSLINE

The FCC prepares for some major budget cutting and ham radio could feel the knife. Also, hate mail on packet radio angers hams worldwide. These stories and more on Newsline report number 944 coming your way right now!

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FCC BUDGET CUT

A Senate subcommittee has voted a 20 percent cut in next year's budgets for the Federal Communications Commission. This could have a divesting effect on the agency and on the services it governs including Amateur Radio. Here are the details.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, State, Justice and Related Agencies adopted has the plan as part of a \$26.49 billion appropriation in fiscal 1996. It is \$1.6 billion below the House version.

For 1996 the FCC budget would be at \$148 million. That's down from \$185 million in 1995.

Subcommittee chairman Phil Gramm, a Republican from Texas drafted the plan. In response to objections that the FCC's heavy workload could not stand a 20 percent cut, Gramm said he would consider an amendment in full committee to keep the agency at the 1995 funding but would not consider any sort of long term increase in agency funding.

In reacting to the Senate subcommittee proposal, FCC chairman Reed Hundt said that these tentative budget cuts will cripple his agency's ability to adequately protect consumers from regulatory abuses. These says Hundt include unreasonably high pay phone rates and unauthorized switching of customers' long-distance companies.

The FCC chairman added that hundreds and hundreds of FCC employees will be terminated if Congress accepts the subcommittee's proposal. And says Hundt, the proposed cut also would jeopardize the FCC's ability to conduct airwaves auctions and make it impossible for the agency to implement telecommunications reform if pending legislation becomes law.

For ham radio failure to get the FCC its full funding could mean an end to all services including routine regulatory changes and any enforcement action. On a longer range outlook, such deep funding cuts could lead the FCC to deregulate Amateur Radio and other personal radio services in the same way as the agency deregulated Class D citizens radio almost two decades ago.

There is little that hams can do except to write letters to their senators and representatives to ask that congress restore the proposed cuts to the FCC.

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PUBLIC INTEREST

FCC Chairman Reed Hundt is making news in another area. He says that he advocates getting rid of the nation's vague public interest broadcasting standard and replacing it with limited but clear and enforceable rules.

In a speech to the National Press Club, Hundt noted that the commission plans to launch a review of TV policies aimed at giving regulators "a second chance to figure out how TV can help us raise our nations children. As it stands now, says Hundt, the public interest rules fail to spell out what broadcasters should do for the public in return for getting free access to the nation's airwaves.

Hundt is urging broadcasters to develop what he called a Contract for Kids and Community to meet their public interest obligations and address concerns about the impact of TV on children.

Not to pat ourselves on the back, but it would appear that we at Newsline are a bit ahead of the commercial broadcasters and the FCC in this area. We have been involved in directly honoring the young achievers of ham radio for the past decade. This, through the Young Ham of the Year award which we created with the no defunct Westlink Report newsletter. Maybe its time for someone to tell the broadcast community and Chairman Hundt that for very little cost, they too can at least consider doing the same.

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PACKET HATE

Some problems on packet. It appears that one or more neo Nazi hate mongers from outside the United States are showing their disdain for the minority culture with worldwide postings that support genocide for several ethnic minority groups.

The messages all have headers and call signs from various European nations, but other postings indicate the calls of the alleged originating stations are pirated. And the audit trails of these messages, that's the listing of packet sites that have relayed the messages, all seem to have a few common forwarding points in South Africa.

The bulletin identifiers on these racial nastygrams are "help dxcc," "DX news worldwide" and "new virus." All have the same or similar racist text.

While hams are upset about these messages, there is little they can do. This is because of the automatic forwarding of packet radio and the reluctance of system operators to censor any message. As a result, there is really no effective way to stop these hate messages. As a result, they are spreading around the world at the speed of light.

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MITNICK IN COURT

A ham radio operator and computer hacker may wind up in a plea bargain agreement with the government. Attorney's for Kevin

Mitnick, N6NHG, are reportedly trying to cut a deal for their client.

Computer hacker Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG captured after a sophisticated electronic manhunt, has appeared briefly in a Los Angeles federal court as the prosecution and defense work privately to settle the case without trial.

Mitnick, 32, arrested in North Carolina in February appeared in court in Los Angeles on Monday, August 28th before U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer for arraignment on a 1989 probation violation charge. Mitnick was on probation on an earlier hacking case when he fled California in 1992.

Judge Pfaelzer agreed to postpone further proceedings in the case until October 2nd. This, to permit both sides in the case time to work out a plea agreement on the bulk of the case.

Neither side was willing to talk about efforts to resolve the case but prosecutor David Schindler says that the government is going to insist that Mitnick take responsibility for his conduct.

Mitnick was arrested in Raleigh, North Carolina and charged with 23 counts of computer fraud. Under a plea agreement, Mitnick agreed to plead guilty to one count of illegally using fifteen stolen phone numbers to dial into computer databases.

A plea bargain in California may not get Mitnick off easy. Several other federal jurisdictions and two other states have made it known that they are investigating him as well.

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HACKER CONVICTED

A Washington State computer programming expert has been convicted of hacking. Randal Schwartz, who illegally gained access to an Intel Corporations computer network has been convicted on three counts of computer crimes after a two and a half week jury trial.

Schwartz, who has been described as a computer prodigy and software authority, was convicted of stealing passwords and making unauthorized software changes in the Intel computer network while he was working at the company as a \$45 an hour consultant. He faces up to five years in prison and \$100,000 in fines on each of three counts of computer crimes when he is sentenced. Prosecutors are also asking the court to order restitution of \$60,000 to Intel.

Schwartz, who went to work at 16 after graduating from high school, is the author of two books on programming in Perl.

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ACCIDENT KILLS MONTSERRAT HAM

Some sad news from the Caribbean. Word that Bobby Martin, VP2MO, was been seriously injured, and his wife Mae, VP2MN, killed in an automobile accident on the island of Montserrat. This, on Sunday, August 27th.

Bobby Martin is currently hospitalized at Hoberton Hospital on Antigua. Although seriously injured he is expected to recover.

The Martins' had temporarily relocated to Antigua following volcanic activity that began on the Montserrat in late July. They were back on Montserrat when the accident involving a British military vehicle occurred.

For those not aware, Bobby Martin, VP2MO, has been known for many years as one of the Caribbean's most active amateurs. In 1990 he received a British knighthood for his relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Hugo, which devastated Montserrat in September 1989.

Our condolences go out to Bobby Martin on this tragic loss.

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TREND BREAKER

From the business page comes news that the two day 1995 Huntsville Hamfest has broken the trend toward one day exhibitions in the southeast. According to convention chairman Scotty Neustadter, N4PYD, attendance was up from last year with an estimated at 6500 hams coming through the gate. More important, retailers report that sales were also up. Up at least 20 to 30% over 1994.

By the way, Scotty Neustadter has accepted our invitation from to serve on the Newsline Young Ham of the Year awards steering committee. The award has a permanent home at the Huntsville Hamfest banquet. Neustadter brings to six the number of members on this council.

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SET

Mark down October 21st and 22nd as the dates that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System will be operating SET '95. This, to test the readiness of Amateur Radio operators nationwide.

The Simulated Emergency Test, better known as SET is a great opportunity to lay a foundation for cooperation among public service agencies in your community. Even more important, its a way of knowing if you are ready in case you and your radio are ever called up to take over if the telephones and all other means of communication go away.

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ARIANE SUCCESS

Some good news and some bad news on the experimental satellite scene. The good news is that the 77th Ariane launch took place on August 29th. This when an Ariane 44 P launch vehicle, that's the Ariane 4 version with 4 solid strap-on boosters added, when it placed the Japanese telecommunications satellite N-STAR into geostationary transfer orbit.

The next launch, V78 is scheduled for late this month when an Ariane 42L booster will launch the TELSTAR 402R satellite for AT & T.

The success of the Ariane program is important to amateur radio. This is because it will be an Ariane that carries AMSAT's Phase 3D ham satellite into space next year.

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VITASAT FAILURE

An experimental satellite called VITASAT-I has failed to achieve orbit. The satellite was launched at 22:30 UTC from Vandenberg AFB on Tuesday, August 16th. According to Eric Rosenberg of Volunteers In Technical Assistance he range safety officer destroyed the Lockheed L L V 1 launch vehicle at approximately 200 seconds into the flight. Eric says it appears that the problem may have been in the second stage of the launch vehicle.

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SPACE SLEEP

Now that space shuttles are flying again an upcoming mission could also hold the secret as to why its hard to get a nap in space.

Scientists will try to tackle problems that make it difficult for space travelers to get regular sleep. According to NASA, they will take part in a 16 day space shuttle mission in July, 1996 to study sleep patterns in space. Several researchers from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center have begun training for the mission. They will try to address problems such as stress, cramped quarters, weightlessness and a busy work schedule which prevent astronauts from getting enough sleep. A spokesman for the group says that the study also will try to determine how weightlessness affects sleep and how changes to the body's rhythms affect mood and the ability to work.

Lets hope that the scientists trying to solve the problem never

learn the meaning of the two letters DX!

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CEPT LICENSE GROUP CHANGE

In news from the European continent, word that John Bazley, G3HCT has agreed to take over as interim chairman of the IARU Region 1 Common Licensing Group following the untimely death of Jaap Dijkshoorn, PA0TO. Bazley, who is a past President of the RSGB, is a serving Council Member and Secretary of the Society's Licensing Advisory Committee.

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NEW RSGB QSL SUB MANAGER NAMED

Also, from the UK comes word that Jim Terry, G4GEU, has retired as RSGB QSL Bureau Sub Manager for the G4G series, after no less than 12 years of service. The new G4G Sub Manager will be Malcolm Slater, G3NML. His address is 46 Ladywood, Boyatt Wood, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

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DX

In DX, EP2FM, the President of Iran's national ham radio society says that after a lapse of some 14 years, there are indications that there may be amateur radio activity from EP land by Iranian citizens once again. EP2FM says that he has lost most of his connections during these long years and would like to appeal for help, mostly in the form of information to help promote amateur radio in his country. He hopes to be able to offer an on the air QSO's soon.

Also, DL9FCQ, will be back in Qatar from December 29th to January 14, 1996. He will be signing A71AN/DL9FCQ, and operate mostly in CW on 80 - 10 meters including the WARC bands. QSL via the bureau or direct.

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TORCH REUNION

It's been eleven years since a corps of hams from across America provided a communications network for a group of non hams. All had a single mission. To deliver the Olympic Flame to the Los Angeles Coliseum and signal the start of the 1984 Olympic games.

The group was made up of members of the Telephone Pioneers of America. With the flame and the runners they traveled over three thousand miles across the nations highways and byways, with ham radio showing the way. And when the glare of the spotlights

faded, the torch run group realized that they had a very special bond. Each year since the '84 games they have gathered once a year in a key city along the route to reminisce.

This year it was Los Angeles turn to host the group. One of the organizers of the reunion is a name very familiar to anyone who has ever attended the Dayton Hamvention. Ron Moorefield, W8ILC is currently the vice president of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, but in 1984 he was on the road with the Olympic flame as it reached the City of Angels:

"I thought in my mind, the things that went on here in California. Coming up from San Diego into LA proper. The thousands and thousands of people. At times we had to get through the crowd, to keep that torch running. Really made you feel good. The people were out there rooting you on and wanting to make this a big success." Moorefield

According to W8ILC it was the spirit of the event that has held the group of volunteers together for over a decade:

"This is an event that one would never forget. I mean, it was the highlight of our life. To be able, to be asked to participate in something like that. There were thousands of people that wanted to do this, but only some many people were allowed to do it. And being a part of this team was tremendous." Moorefield

The Telephone Pioneer group says that it hopes to meet next summer in Atlanta to help celebrate the 1996 games, but this time they will not be guiding the torch. The Olympic Organizing Committee has awarded that job to a charitable organization. Word it that they will be using cellular telephones and Class D 11 meter CB to guide the torch on its cross country trek.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

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